



Issue 2006-06, Released 06/12/06

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

THANK YOU

to all the producers who participated in our recent surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

*Agriculture Prices
Crop Production
Cattle on Feed
Livestock Slaughter
Agricultural Labor*

LIVESTOCK PRICES CONTINUE TO SLIDE; WHEAT HIGHER

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during May was 117 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 3 points (3 percent) from April and down 12 points (9 percent) from May 2005.

The **All Livestock Index**, at 118, was down 4 points (3 percent) from April and down 13 points (10 percent) from May 2005. Lamb prices were slightly above last month, but below last year. All other livestock prices were down from last month and last year. Cow prices averaged 90 cents below April and \$13.80 lower than May 2005. This is the lowest cow price since February 2004. Steer and heifer prices were the lowest since May 2004. This month's price was \$1.00 below last month and \$10.00 below last year's price. Calf prices averaged \$2.00 lower than April and \$8.00 lower than May 2005. Sheep prices were the lowest since August 2003 when the price was \$28.10 per hundredweight. This month's price was 80 cents below April and \$13.80 below last year's price. Lamb prices were 50 cents above last month but \$40.00 lower than last year at this time. Last month's price was the lowest since June 2002.

The **All Crops Index**, at 106, was unchanged from April, but down 11 points (9 percent) from May last year. Prices for corn and wheat were higher than last month, while all other crops remained unchanged. Compared with May 2005, prices were higher for corn, oats, feed barley, all wheat, alfalfa hay, and other hay. Dry beans were down from last year. Corn was up 5 cents from April and up 31 cents from May 2005. Oats was unchanged from last month but was up 5 cents from last year. Feed barley was unchanged from last month but was 5 cents higher than last year at this time. Wheat was up 16 cents from April and up 68 cents from last May. Dry beans were unchanged from April but down \$13.30 from last year. Alfalfa hay and other hay were unchanged from May but up \$3.00 and \$5.00, respectively, from last year's prices.

The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (1 percent) from April. The Crop Index was up 3 points (2 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (1 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, hogs, onions, and grapefruit. Lower prices were received for cattle, asparagus, tomatoes, and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of grapes, sweet corn, cantaloupe, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, calves, and apples.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 5 points (4 percent) from May 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 115, increased 1 point (1 percent) from last month but decreased 7 points (6 percent) from May 2005.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, MAY 2005, APRIL 2006, AND MAY 15, 2006								
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		MAY 2005	APRIL 2006	MAY 15 2006	MAY 2005	APRIL 2006	MAY 15 2006	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
Cows	100#	61.80	48.90	48.00	58.30	48.50	48.00	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	112.00	103.00	102.00	96.10	89.30	85.80	—
Calves	100#	140.00	134.00	132.00	143.00	135.00	132.00	49
Sheep	100#	42.80	29.80	29.00	43.70	34.90	1/	—
Lambs	100#	119.00	78.80	79.00	114.00	86.80	1/	—
CROPS								
Corn	Bu.	2.24	2.50	2.55	1.98	2.11	2.17	28
Oats	Bu.	1.55	1.60	1.60	1.64	1.75	1.76	41
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.63	1.68	1.68	1.71	1.83	1.78	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.22	3.74	3.90	3.31	3.81	4.07	39
Dry Beans	100#	30.30	17.00	17.00	31.10	19.00	22.80	42
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	74.00	77.00	77.00	116.00	110.00	118.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	68.00	73.00	73.00	75.40	93.20	96.80	—
1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996.								
NOTE: Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.								
INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.								
1990-92 = 100		WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		MAY 2005	APRIL 2006	MAY 15 2006	MAY 2005	APRIL 2006	MAY 15 2006	
All Commodities		129	120	117	119	113	114	
All Crops		117	106	106	116	123	126	
All Livestock and Products		131	122	118	121	105	104	

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN 16 PERCENT FROM 2005

UNITED STATES: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.26 billion bushels, down 4 percent from the May 1 forecast and down 16 percent from 2005. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 40.5 bushels per acre, down 1.9 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, unchanged from last month.

Hard Red production is forecast at 659 million bushels. Soft Red is forecast at 357 million bushels, and White production totals 248 million bushels. Of the White production total, 19.7 million bushels are Hard White and 228 million bushels are Soft White.

WINTER WHEAT, 2005 AND JUNE 1, 2006 FORECAST, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.							
State	Acres Harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006	% 2006/2005
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Bushels</i>		<i>1,000 Bushels</i>		
Colorado	2,200	2,000	24.0	23.0	52,800	46,000	87
Kansas	9,500	9,400	40.0	31.0	380,000	291,400	77
Montana	2,100	1,950	45.0	39.0	94,500	76,050	80
Nebraska	1,760	1,650	39.0	34.0	68,640	56,100	82
Oklahoma	4,000	3,100	32.0	22.0	128,000	68,200	53
Texas	3,000	1,300	32.0	25.0	96,000	32,500	34
Washington	1,800	1,800	67.0	68.0	120,600	122,400	101
Wyoming	145	1/	30.0	1/	4,350	1/	---
UNITED STATES	33,794	31,177	44.4	40.5	1,499,129	1,263,766	84

1/ Forecasts no longer made for Wyoming.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on May 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above May 1, 2005 and 11 percent above May 1, 2004. This is the highest May 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.63 million, 2 percent below 2005 but 2 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.54 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 385,000, 600-699 pounds were 270,000, 700-799 pounds were 444,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.79 million, down slightly from 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 87,000 during April, 4 percent below 2005 and 10 percent below 2004.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, MAY, 2005-2006 1/

State	On Feed Apr 1, 2006	Placements Apr 2006	Marketings Apr 2006	Other Disapp. Apr 2006	On Feed May 1, 2006	On Feed May 1, 2005
Thousand Head						
CO	1,070	140	140	10	1,060	970
KS	2,590	375	410	25	2,530	2,260
NE	2,400	320	390	10	2,320	2,190
TX	2,940	455	470	15	2,910	2,630
Oth Sts.	2,812	339	384	27	2,740	2,591
U.S.	11,812	1,629	1,794	87	11,560	10,641

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

WYOMING: Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during April 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 9 percent from the previous month's production, and down 14 percent from April 2005. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Five hundred *cattle* were slaughtered in April, down 100 from last year. Total live weight was 588,000 pounds, down 14 percent from April 2005. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,167 pounds, down 9 pounds from last year.

A total of 300 *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, unchanged head from last April. Total live weight, at 73,000 pounds, was down 17 percent from April 2005. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 262 pounds, down 3 pounds from last year.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in April, unchanged from April 2005. Live weight totaled 16,000 pounds, up 45 percent from April 2005. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 151 pounds, up 11 pounds from a year earlier.

Red Meat production from January to April 2006 totaled 1.9 million pounds, down 14 percent from the same period last year.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.61 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in April 2005.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 2 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year to 1,246 pounds.

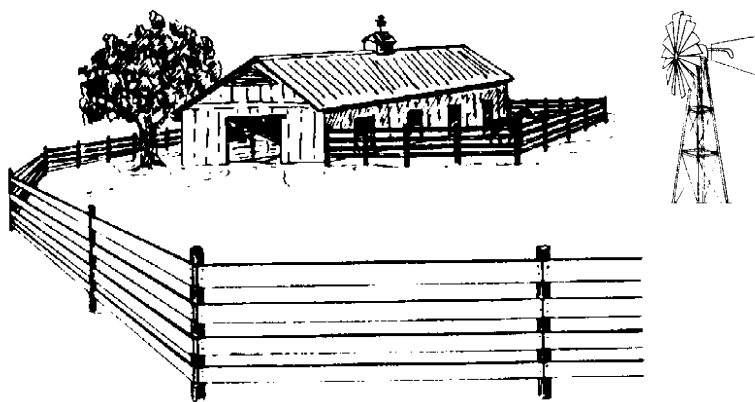
Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.96 million head, 6 percent below April 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from April 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,500 head, 13 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2006 commercial red meat production was 15.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APRIL 2005 AND 2006, Wyoming and U.S.

SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Apr 2005	Apr 2006	Apr 2005	Apr 2006	% 06/05	Apr 2005	Apr 2006	Apr 2005	Apr 2006	% 06/05
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
Cattle	600	500	683	588	86	2,560,300	2,607,400	3,118,373	3,248,884	104
Hogs	300	300	88	73	83	8,445,000	7,955,600	2,285,822	2,167,521	95
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	11	16	145	220,700	248,500	31,050	33,813	109



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U.S. AG WAGE RATES UP 5 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

WYOMING: The number of hired farm and ranch workers in the tri-state region during the week April 9-15, 2006 was down 1,000 (4 percent) from a year ago. During this period, 23,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. Of the 23,000 hired workers, 19,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 4,000 were expected to work 149 days or less, compared with 20,000 and 4,000 last year. The number of hired workers during the week January 8-14, 2006 was 17,000.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$9.22 per hour, up 23 cents (3 percent) from January and up 79 cents (9 percent) from April 2005. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$9.20 per hour compared with \$7.89 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$8.57 per hour compared with \$8.49 last year.

The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 44.1 compared with 44.5 last April.

UNITED STATES: There were 956,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 718,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 238,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.79 per hour during the April 2006 reference week, up 44 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.96 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.30 per hour compared with \$9.14 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.07 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 2 percent from a year ago.

**Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker,
Regions and U.S., April 9-15, 2006 1/**

Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
Dollars per hour				
Mntn I 2/	9.20	8.57	8.81	9.22
Mntn II 3/	8.39	8.98	8.65	9.08
No Plns 4/	9.67	8.64	9.25	9.84
U.S. 5/	8.96	9.30	9.07	9.79

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers

2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming

3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North &

South Dakota

5/ Excludes Alaska